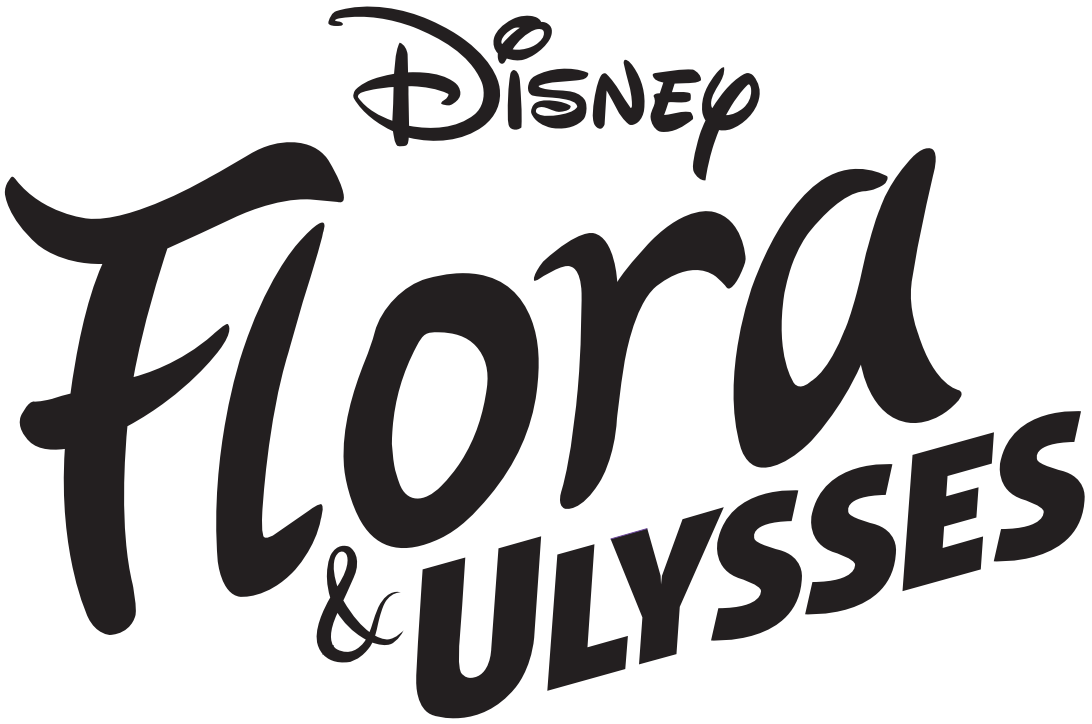
NO TIGHTS. NO CAPE. NO PROBLEM.

Disney

Flora & Ulysses



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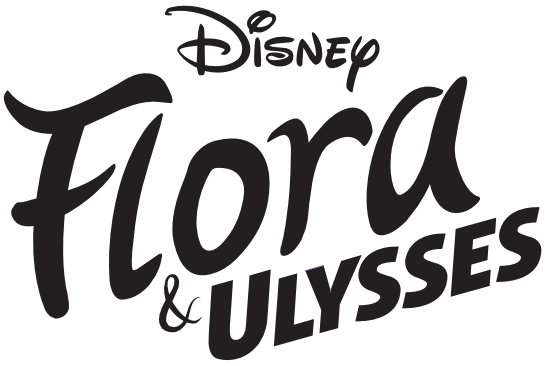

A
GIL NETTER
Production

Directed by ..... LENA KHAN
Screenplay by ..... BRAD COPELAND
Based on the novel "Flora & Ulysses:
The Illuminated Adventures" by ..... KATE DICAMILLO
Produced by ..... GIL NETTER
Executive Producers ..... KATTERLI FRAUENFELDER
JAMES POWERS
Director of Photography ..... ANDREW DUNN, BSC
Production Designer ..... MICHAEL FITZGERALD
Film Editor ..... JAMIE GROSS
Costume Designer ..... MONA MAY
Original Score Composed by ..... JAKE MONACO
Executive Music Producer ..... ZACHARY DAWES
Casting by ..... EMILY SCHWEBER, CSA

Unit Production Manager ..... JAMES POWERS
First Assistant Director ..... KATTERLI FRAUENFELDER
Production Manager ..... ABRAHAM FRASER
First Assistant Director ..... MEGAN SHANK
Second Assistant Director ..... REGAN KOSIOR

Visual Effects Supervisor ..... DARYL SAWCHUK
Visual Effects Producer ..... DAVID FEINSILBER
Co-Producer ..... JENNIE LEE

CAST

Flora ..... MATILDA LAWLER
Phyllis ..... ALYSON HANNIGAN
George ..... BEN SCHWARTZ
William ..... BEN EVAN AINSWORTH
Miller ..... DANNY PUDI
Incandesto ..... DARIEN MARTIN
Dr. Meescham ..... ANNA DEAVERE SMITH
Stanlee ..... BOBBY MOYNIHAN
Ulysses (Vocals) ..... JOHN KASSIR
Tootie ..... NANCY ROBERTSON
Marissa ..... JANEANE GAROFALO
Rita ..... KATE MICUCCI
Journalist ..... CHRISTINE LEE
Chad ..... JESSE REID
Donald ..... JAVIER LACROIX
Cook ..... DAVID MILCHARD
Shobo ..... KYLE STRAUT
The Mighty Condor ..... TORI KATONGO
Flora 6 Yrs Old ..... EMMA OLIVER
Binders Keepers Employee ..... ARKIE KANDOLA
Reporter at Diner ..... ARRAN HENN
Binders Keepers Regional Manager ..... HENRY MAH
Animal Control Techs ..... MALAIKA JACKSON
SHAWN ROBIDOUX
Kate ..... KATE DICAMILLO
Technician ..... CAROLYN YONGE
Police Officers ..... SIMON CHIN
RHONA REES
Meter Man ..... CRAIG HAAS
Old Man ..... ALEX KLINER
Comic Book Patron ..... TRACY CHOW

Stunt Coordinator ..... GARVIN CROSS

Stunt Players

DARRYL SCHEELAR
JESSICA BODNAREK
TIMOTHY WALLACE
ROB ROCKHILL
DOUG ARMSTRONG
KYLE WALSTROM
KRISTA BELL
DAN REDFORD
BRETT ARMSTRONG
ELI MARTYR
BRIAN JAGERSKY
ED ANDERS
GAYAN DIAS
GREG BRAY
KATIE STUART
KEVIN FORTIN
MATT KENNEDY
MIKE CRESTEJO
RYAN ENNIS
ZANDRA KENNEDY
DEVYN DALTON
BECKY FERGUSON
JOSEPH FRANCO
DAVE ALEXANDER
BRENNAN WALSTROM
OWEN WALSTROM
LANDON JACKLE
BRIN ALEXANDER
CASSANDRA EBNER
ANDA LALANDE
CHRIS WEBB
EUAN ROBERTS
GLENN ENNIS
JENNIFER LI
KEANU LAM
KYLE RIEFSNYDER
MAYA MACATUMPAG
NEIL CALDWELL
SCOTT ATEAH

Production Controller ..... ANNE JACOBSEN
Art Directors ..... MICHAEL DINER
GWENDOLYN MARGETSON
Assistant Art Director ..... TARA ARNOTT
Graphic Designers ..... LOREE CAMERON
SAMUEL FINDLAY
Illustrators ..... COLIN LORIMER
SUNIL PANT
JEREMY SIMSER
Set Designer ..... ANDREW LI
Art Department Coordinator ..... NADINE SEKORA
Art Department Assistant ..... ANN PAPPAJOHN
Set Decorator ..... ZOE JIRIK
Assistant Set Decorator ..... KAREN SPANER
Set Dec Coordinator ..... STACY THOMAS
Set Dec Buyers ..... MOIRA PERLMUTTER
CINDY MAINES

Leadman ..... THOMAS WALKER
Set Dressers ..... BRIAN MITCHELL
ED HUERY
SAMANTHA STEBBE
JOHN GANDOLA
SEAN SHAUL
Set Wireman ..... ELDON CONEY
Assistant Costume Designer ..... MARIA TYSON
Costume Supervisor ..... RENA CAMPBELL
Costume Coordinator ..... NAZREEN BURNS
Assistant Costume Coordinator ..... GRACE KEATING

Costumers

AMY SCHILBE — ALEX HARTLE
BRENDA MCDERMID — MACKENZIE SERIN
KYLA NESBITT — GAIL SMITH

Makeup Dept. Head ..... CONNIE PARKER
Assistant Makeup Artists ..... JOANNA MIREAU
BETH BOXALL

Hair Dept. Head ..... SANNA SEPPANEN
Assistant Hairstylists ..... STEPHANIE EVANS
CARMEL GRAHAM

Camera Operators ..... JIM VAN DIJK
JOSH KNEPPER
HARVEY LAROQUE
First Assistant Camera ..... LARRY PORTMANN
HAROLD BERNARD
CURTIS NICHOLLS
Second Assistant Camera ..... POLLY PIERCE
JOSHUA KIMELMAN-MARR
Digital Loader ..... TRAVIS LEE
DIT ..... CHRIS BOLTON
Camera Trainee ..... MICHAEL HALL
HOLDEN LUMBARD
Video Assistants ..... JUSTIN JOHNS
STEVEN JOHNSON
EDWARD YIN

Script Supervisor ..... SUSAN LAMBIE
Sound Mixer ..... MARK NODA
Boom Operator ..... TONY WYMAN
Cableman ..... MESSINA GUTIERREZ

Location Manager ..... TRACEY RENYARD
Assistant Location Managers ..... DYLAN KRAEMER
DAN MOORE
ANNIE ARMSTRONG
Trainee Assistant Locations Manager .... KATRINE PRUD'HOMME
Key Production Assistants ..... GLEN WILLING
JANETTE WU

Production Assistants

ERICA THUMM — TOM TEOTICO
TERIANNE CLARE — SASCHA SEYCHAB
BRITTNEY DRUNKEMOLLE — MAIRI TURNER
ZOE CULLIVER — WESLEY SCHILT

Environmental Steward ..... OWEN THELWALL
Asset Management ..... ANNETTE REILLY

Additional Editors ..... LEE HAXALL, ACE
DANE R. NAIMY

Post Production Supervisor ..... LESLIE RODIER
Assistant Editor ..... JOHN CARNER
Post Production Assistant ..... JACQUELINE OLIVO

VFX Editor ..... MATT TODARO
VFX Assistant Editor ..... BRITNI PETERS
VFX Production Manager ..... KELLY CHOW
Additional VFX Production Manager (prep/shoot) ... ANWEI CHEN
VFX Production Assistant ..... GRACE NETTER
Lead VFX Data Wrangler ..... STEVEN TETHER
VFX Data Wrangler ..... TYLER GOULD
VFX Coordinator (prep/shoot) ..... GABRIELLE POWELL
VFX Intern ..... PRANAV MARWAH
VFX In-House Artist ..... ERIC DEINZER

Sound Design and Supervision ..... AARON GLASCOCK
Re-Recording Mixers ..... CHRISTOPHER S. AUD
AARON GLASCOCK
Supervising ADR and Dialogue Editor ..... BYRON WILSON
Sound Effects Editors ..... ALBERT GASSER M.P.S.E.
MITCH OSIAS
Supervising Foley Editor ..... JERRY ROSS
First Assistant Sound Editor ..... LINDA YEANEY

ADR Mixers

DOC KANE — SCOTT CANNIZZARO
BILL HIGLEY, C.A.S. — BOBBY JOHANSON
CHRIS NAVARRO — DANIEL PIGGOTT
MIRKO VOGEL — MARK WILKENING

Foley Mixer ..... WALTER SPENCER
Foley Artist ..... MIKE HORTON
Foley Facility ..... HI-FI FOLEY
Re-Recorded at ..... WALT DISNEY STUDIOS
Mix Tech ..... DOUGLAS L. PARKER
Voice Casting ..... CAITLIN MCKENNA

Chief Lighting Technician ..... JOHN DEKKER
Assistant Chief Lighting Technician ..... BRETT BIRD
Lamp Operators ..... ANDY LIN
SAUBRIE MOHAMED
JUSTIN TOGNO
MARK MURPHY
Board Operator ..... BEN KAPUSTA
Generator Operator ..... MIKE STROMAN
Rigging Gaffer ..... JEFF HARVEY

Rigging Lamp Operators

JOHN WOODS — JORDAN COLBRIDGE
AARON FAJKOVIC — JAMES IBARAKI
REBECCA PERIC — JAKE STEPHENSON

Key Grip ..... FINN KING
Best Boy Grip ..... MARCO CORREIA
Dolly Grips ..... DAMIEN GILES
PAUL SHERIDAN
Grips ..... SAM MCMANUS
COLIN ROBSON
ALEX YATES
MELISSA BEAUPRE
Key Rigging Grip ..... DON TUPPER

Best Boy Rigging Grip ..... CHRIS CRISTOBAL

Rigging Grips

ZACH HOLT
SEAN FARMER
DEVIN DOYLE
GENESIS JUANE
FRASER STEPHENSON
JOSH BARNS

Property Master ..... DEAN BARKER
Assistant Property Masters ..... TONY XEROS
TYLER PAGE
Prop Buyer ..... JEREMY NITSCH
Assistant Props ..... JON WATSON
HAIDA HARPER
Special Effects Coordinator ..... TONY LAZAROWICH
Special Effects Foremen ..... KIM MORTENSEN
MALCOLM MOTT
CARA ANDERSON
Special Effects Assistants ..... CURT STORMS
ANTHONY PROULX
WILLIAMS ROBBINS
Production Coordinator ..... BLISS MCDONALD
Assistant Production Coordinators ..... KAREN KORCHINSKI
EVAN GODFREY
2nd Assistant Production Coordinators ..... DANIELLE HALL
AINE COADY
Office Production Assistant ..... BENJAMIN BOURGON
On Set Security Coordinator ..... AMBER GRANNEMAN
3rd Assistant Directors ..... JOEL CYR
HALEY LAUTEN
DGC Trainee ..... DARRYL MERPAW

Interns

PRABHJOT NIJJAR
KARIS DUCHARME
MARA CRUZ
MACKENNA DAVIES
PRANAV MARWAH
STEPHANIE CARDONA
LUISA MUNIZ

Assistants to Lena Khan ..... SHAZIA MIAN
ISABELLA FLEMING

Construction Coordinator ..... CHRIS THOMPSON
Construction Foreman ..... SHANE O'REILLY
ROB DAMPIER
Construction Buyer ..... MIKE MCCARTHY
Lead Carpenters ..... THOR SMART
ROB SYKES
Paint Coordinator ..... RANDY WILLS
Paint Foreman ..... STEVE VANCE
Lead Painters ..... RUSS MASTINE
RORY SULLIVAN
LIZZIE MCQUORCODALE
Head Greensperson ..... JOSIE BLEUER

Greensmen

SALEEM KAFI
CHRISTOPHER SILVA
DWAYNE COLLINS
DAVID BAILLIE
PATIENCE LEENSTRA
LAUREN LEENSTRA

Clearance Coordinator ..... KAREN NIELSEN
Dialect Coach ..... SARA ARRINGTON
Studio Teachers ..... NATALIE ZARA SMITH
JANET LARSEN

First Assistant Accountant ..... BARBARA MERCER
Assistant Accountants ..... MONIQUE LEDOHOWSKI
JULIE BYGRAVE
Payroll Accountant ..... BRENDA MCCLELLAN
Clerk ..... BONNIE DALE
AMY LAIDLAW
Post Production Accountant ..... CYNTHIA PHILLIPS

Unit Publicist ..... GREGG BRILLIANT
Still Photographer ..... JAKE GILES NETTER

Transportation Coordinator ..... SCOTT CARPENTER
Transportation Captains ..... CHUCK GREIG
JIM PAPADOGAMBROS
Transport Dispatch ..... MEGAN IRVINE
Picture Car Coordinator ..... ANDREW ANDERSON
Picture Car Wrangler ..... STEVE ELLIS
Security Coordinator ..... EMMETT SINGER

Casting Associate ..... M'SAADA NIA
Casting Assistant ..... JOCELYN JOHNSON
Extras Casting ..... ANDREA BROWN
Extra Casting Assistants ..... ANNABEL GREEN
CRYSTAL WILSON
Vancouver Casting ..... CANDICE ELZINGA, CSA
Vancouver Casting Associate ..... MARTINA SMYTH
New York Casting ..... SHAYNA MARKOWITZ
New York Casting Associate ..... BETSY FIPPINGER
United Kingdom Casting ..... KATE RINGSELL, CDG, CSA
United Kingdom Casting Associate ..... CLAUDIA BLUNT

Animal Trainer ..... IAN DOIG
First Aid/Medics ..... MICHAEL PAIK
FABIO NOVITSKY
SEAN AISLABIE
SHEILA CASSELS
Caterer ..... SERRANO CATERING

Supervising Music Editor ..... JON MOONEY
Temp Music Editor ..... ALLEGRA DE SOUZA

Score Recorded and Mixed by ..... MICHAEL BOUSKA

Lead Orchestrator ..... HAL ROSENFELD
Additional Orchestrations by ..... TOBY SHERRIFF
TIM DAVIES
Orchestra Conducted by ..... TIM DAVIES
Orchestra Contractor ..... PETER ROTTER & JASPER RANDALL
FOR ENCOMPASS MUSIC PARTNERS
Music Preparation ..... JOSEF ZIMMERMAN
JOANN KANE MUSIC SERVICES
Digital Score Recordist ..... KEVIN GLOBERMAN
Additional Score Programming ..... BRITTANY DUNTON
BRYAN WINSLOW
MATT COHEN
JUAN ANDRES OTALORA
ZACHARY MARSH
Score Coordinator ..... JOSE KROPP
Recorded At ..... NEWMAN SCORING STAGE, LOS ANGELES, CA
Mixed At ..... AZIMUTH STUDIO

Main Title and Graphic Sequences by ..... ASPECT
End Titles ..... SCARLET LETTERS

Color and Finish by.....COMPANY 3
Colorist..... TIM STIPAN
Finishing Editor..... CHAD SCHERMERHORN
Finishing Producer .....CHRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Image Scientist .....DR JOHN QUARTEL
Technologist..... MIKE CHIADO
Color Assistant.....JOHN TRIPP
Finishing Executive .....JACKIE LEE
Head of Production ..... LAURA GEUCHERIAN
CARL MOORE
CO3 President .....STEFAN SONNENFELD

VISUAL EFFECTS

Visual Effects by..... FRAMESTORE
VFX Supervisor..... NICOLAS CHEVALLIER
VFX Producer .....MASSIMO MEO
Animation Supervisors..... THIAGO MARTINS
LAURENT LABAN
CG Supervisors.....PIERRE-LOÏC HAMON
SHEEN YAP
2D Supervisors..... LAURELINE SILAN
HUGO GAUVREAU
VFX Associate Producer ..... C.C. BARAZIN
VFX Editor ..... THERESE SKUNDBERG FIDJE

VFX Line Producers..... ETHAN MAHARAJ
GREET KALLIKORM
JORDAN PETTERSEN
SARAH ESSAM

VFX Coordinators

ALE SANTILLAN LOZANO
CAROLINE DE KONINCK
DAVID LEE
LOUISE VANHELLE
MATHIEU ARDON KTISTAKIS
MAXIME LACROIX
MOHAMED AIT OUYAHIA
VFX Production Assistants..... AARON NG
VINCENT LESPERANCE

Lead Artists

ALEXANDRE ROBITAILLE
CHRISTOPHE METZ
DANIEL CAVALCANTE MOUTINHO
ERIC W. ARAUJO
GEORGE FRONIMADIS
GIULIA CADEDDU
ISABELLE MAINVILLE
JESSE FORSEY
JULIETTE GRANDJONC
LOÏC MIREAULT
MARISA AHN
NANDINI NAMBIAR
PIERRE ALLARD
SACHIN TYAGI
STANISLAS PAILLEREAU
THIBAULT PANSIOT
THOMAS BECKER
VICTOR GUTARRA
VIVIANE ASSAAD
YANNICK TAN

Digital Artists

ADESH BHARADWAJ KRISHNAMURTHY
ADRIEN CRESPON
AJU MOHAN
ALEXANDER MARTINEZ PADILLA
ALINA IAKIMOVA
ALPER TANSEL
AMAURY COLJON
AMINA TAN
ANNABELLE HAUFFE
ANTHONY VINCENT
ANTOINE MARIEZ
ANTOINE PETITGAND
ARMITA KHANLARPOUR
ARNAUD LABERGE
CARMELIDA CONDEMI
CATHERINE THÉRIAULT
CHARLOTTE TRICHET
CHING-YI CHEN
CHLOÉ LOSCH
CHRISTOPHER FORRAI
CHRISTOPHER TULEYA
CHUN YONG CHONG
DANIEL BATT
DANIEL GUEDES ALMEIDA
DANIEL NOVEL
DIEGO DE PAULA PEREIRA BATISTA
FLORIAN SAUZET
FRANCOIS ARSENEAU
GENEVIEVE TROTTIER
GEON-HU KIM
GIL DANIEL
GUILLAUME GILBAUD
JADE LESSARD
JAMES CHO YU HSU
JAMES PARSONS
JESSE ONG PHO
JOELLE SAID
JOHN TOTH
JONATHAN DESAULNIERS
JUAN RAMON POU
JUDIT SOMOGYVARI
JULIA MUELLER-MADAUS
JULIEN DERAGON
KHUSHNUMA PERCY SAVAI
LAURA COUMBE
LAURE RAGUENEAU
LISA RASASOMBAT
MANASH SHARMA
MARCOS SUSSUMU TOGO
MARIE PILLIER
MARTINE CHARTRAND
MASON GREISSEL
MAYUR KAWALE
MYRIAM RIGONNAUD
NAOMI HIBBERT
NICO CORONADO RIVERO
NICOLAS CANDIDO
NICOLAS DUFRESNE
NICOLAS LOURME
OLIVER FERGUSSON-TAYLOR
PAULINA RODRIGUEZ LEMUS
PHILIPP WINTERSTEIN
PHILIPPE LORD-DUROCHER
PRAVEEN GOUD
QUENTIN ARRIUS
RODRIGO SOUZA
RUSSELL LLOYD
SAMER SALLMAN
SHAWN LIANG
SIDDHESH BHANDARE
SILVIJA MITRESKA
SOPHIE BURIE
STEPHANIE COOPER
STEPHANIE TRAVERS
TAKANOBU HIRANO
THOMAS ROBILLARD
VESNA OSTOJIC
VICTOR DINIS
VINCENT LEE
YI ZHANG
YU KOJIMA
ZACHARY PANNUNZIO
Concept Artist ..... JAMIE O'HARA

Visual Effects by
SHADE VFX

VFX Supervisor.....BRYAN GODWIN
VFX Producer .....TYLER J. MARINO
Compositing Supervisor..... PETER SIDORIAK
Compositors..... WING KWOK
KENNETH ARMSTRONG
RYAN E. MURPHY
DEANNA CHITTUM

VFX Effects by
LOLA VFX

VFX Supervisor..... WILLIAM BARKUS

Digital Artists

RYLAND BOWEN-JOHNSON
SARAH CANALE
CHIEH DENG
RUSSELL MACK
MATTHEW UNWIN
LEE MAR

Visualization by
THE THIRD FLOOR

Visualization Supervisor..... SCOTT HANKEL
Visualization Lead ..... ALEXANDRA ZEDALIS

Previs Artists

DYLAN HARRIS
HERMAN LEE
NATHANIEL SAUNDERS
TODD H. AMMONS
MELISSA THOMPSON
INES BAUMGARTNER

Additional Visualization by . . . . . DAY FOR NITE
Lidar and Cyberscanning by . . . . . CLEAR ANGLE

SONGS

"You Know What I Mean"
Written by Matt MacNeil, Matthew Tavares
Performed by Homer
Courtesy of Matthew Tavares and Matt MacNeil

"The Imperial March"
Written by John T. Williams

"Twisted Avenues"
Written by Gordon Longworth, Steve Emberton
Performed by Motion Pictures
Courtesy of State Records and Music
By arrangement with Mutiny Recordings

"Like Fireflies"
Written and Performed by Joel P West
Courtesy of Other Rivers Music

"Wings"
Written by Timothy Joseph Feehan, Renee Nicole Myers
Performed by Rizzi Myers
Courtesy of Mutiny Recordings

"It's Not Unusual"
Written by Gordon Mills, Les Reed
Performed by Tom Jones
Courtesy of Decca Music Group Ltd.
under license from Universal Music Enterprises

"Fly Like The Wind"
Written by Robert Allen
Performed by Used Records
Courtesy Of Music Of The Sea Inc.

"I Need You Anyway"
Written by Robbie Allen, Christopher Ball
Performed by Kristoff's Cakeboy
Courtesy of Mutiny Recordings

"Back Beat"
Written by Timothy Joseph Feehan
Performed by Tim Feehan
Courtesy of Mutiny Recordings

"Anabel My Sweet"
Written by Kennedy Morrison
Performed by Jackie Souders & His Orchestra
Courtesy of Kennedy Morrison
Under License by Ford Music Services

"U Can't Touch This"
Written by Stanley Burrell, Rick James, Alonzo Miller
Performed by MC Hammer
Courtesy of Capitol Records under license from
Universal Music Enterprises

"I Give You Devotion"
Written by Frantic, Mark Lionel Jiggens, Zee Asha
Performed by Caroldene Black
Courtesy of LoveCat Music

"Here It Goes Again"
Written by Damian Kulash
Performed by OK Go
Courtesy of Capitol Records under license from
Universal Music Enterprises

"TouJours"
Written and Performed by Alexandra Savoir McDermott

"All Those Potatoes and No Meat"
Written by Alexandra Savoir McDermott
Performed by Drew Erickson

"Re: Stacks"
Written by Justin Vernon
Performed by Bon Iver
Courtesy of Jagjaguwar

"Moonshadow"
Written by Yusuf Islam
Performed by Cat Stevens
Courtesy of Island Records Ltd. under license from
Universal Music Enterprises

"Shadows"
Written and Performed by Joel P West
Courtesy of Other Rivers Music

"Lovely Day"
Written by Bill Withers, Skip Scarborough
Performed by Bill Withers
Courtesy of Columbia Records
By arrangement with Sony Music Entertainment

Soundtrack Available On
Walt Disney Records

American Humane monitored the animal action.
No animals were harmed®
(AHD # 09764)
American Humane™

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Production Services Tax Credit
Gestion SODEC

With the participation of the Province of British Columbia
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Cameras provided by
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MPA

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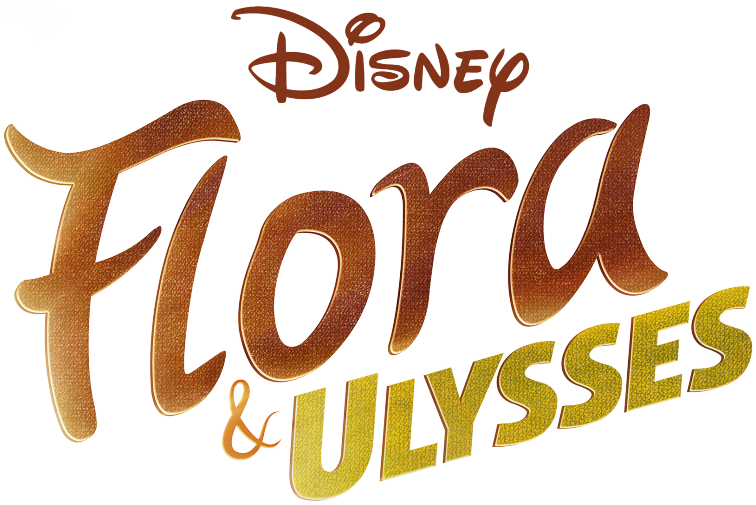
PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
PG
SOME MILD ACTION AND THEMATIC ELEMENTS.
Some Material May Not Be Suitable for Children ®



From Walt Disney Studios, “Flora & Ulysses” is a comedy-adventure based on the Newbery Award–winning book about 10-year-old Flora, an avid comic-book fan and a self-avowed cynic, who saves a squirrel she names Ulysses, only to have its unique superhero powers wreak havoc in a series of humorous, antic-filled adventures that ultimately change Flora’s life—and her outlook—forever.

Matilda Lawler, who appeared on Broadway in “The Ferryman,” makes her film debut as Flora, with Alyson Hannigan (“How I Met Your Mother,” “American Pie”) as Flora’s romance-novelist mother, Phyllis, and Ben Schwartz (“Parks and Recreation,” “Modern Family”) as her struggling comic-book-artist father, George. Also in the cast are Anna Deavere Smith, Danny Pudi, newcomer Benjamin Evan Ainsworth, Janeane Garofalo and Kate Micucci.

“Flora & Ulysses” is directed by Lena Khan (“The Tiger Hunter”) and produced by Academy Award®–nominated film producer Gil Netter (“Life of Pi,” “The Blind Side,” “Marley & Me”), with James Powers (“The Maze Runner” series) and Katterli Frauenfelder (“Dumbo,” “Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children”) serving as executive producers. The novel “Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures,” by Kate DiCamillo, was adapted as a screenplay by Brad Copeland (“Ferdinand,” “Arrested Development”).

First published in 2013, “Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures” is an illustrated novel by Kate DiCamillo. The story follows Flora Buckman and a squirrel named Ulysses, who develops unusual intellectual and physical capabilities after being sucked into a vacuum cleaner. In bonding with Ulysses, the guarded Flora learns to discard her cynicism and be more open to the world. “Flora & Ulysses” features a tough female protagonist and an eclectic, eccentric and diverse cast of characters, as well as an adorable anthropomorphic animal central to the plot.

Producer Gil Netter (“The Blind Side”) read an advance of the book when it was still in galley form. Netter—passionate about bringing to the screen uplifting, relatable stories about families—immediately brought the book to his friend, screenwriter Brad Copeland, who quickly turned around a first draft of a script. The producer then showed the script to director Lena Khan, who gained attention when her first feature film, the crowdsourced indie comedy “The Tiger Hunter,” garnered positive reviews upon its release in 2017. Netter, Copeland and Khan were delighted when “Flora & Ulysses” found a home at Disney+.

“The book is really popular with parents to read to their kids,” says Khan. “I wanted to accentuate that and make this into one of those movies that kids will love, but adults—whether or not they’re parents—would also enjoy watching. The script was incredibly witty. It has this original, fresh type of humor, and it felt genuine. I was excited about making this movie mostly because it was the kind of movie I would want to watch.”

DiCamillo recalls, “When I met Lena Khan for the first time, she told me how she responded to the book’s humor and joy. But she also said this is a story for people who haven’t had a lot of luck in this world, broken people. And we’re all broken, aren’t we? It was in that wonderful moment where I just thought, wow, you’re the perfect director to be doing this.”

Khan responded to its universal premise. “When the world brings you down, what does it take to get back up again? Sometimes, that might be a very crazy, funny journey with a squirrel with extraordinary and strange superhero skills.”

Khan continues, “First off, it’s hilarious. And it has characters that are real, with emotions that run deep, that are going through stuff that we go through all the time. Behind everything, there’s a message of hope, of the power of love in friendship and family.”

CASTING THE HUMANS

When we first meet Flora, her parents have recently separated.

Explains Khan, “She has just gone through a bit of trauma. She’s a smart girl. She’s innovative, loves comic books, and now has become a true-blue cynic. Until Ulysses comes into her life and shows her, maybe you can give hope just one more chance and you might see something you didn’t think was out there.”

Adds DiCamillo, “Change is effected through Ulysses’ love for Flora and her love for him. She, by the end of the story, believes in the impossible and also believes in love.”

To play this complicated 10-year-old, the filmmakers chose Matilda Lawler, marking her first studio film after making her Broadway debut as Honor Carney in Jez Butterworth’s “The Ferryman,” which won the 2019 Tony Award® for best play. Lawler was also seen in the indie thriller “The Block Island Sound,” from Kevin McManus and Matthew McManus.

“After doing an international casting search, seeing more than a thousand kids, we found Matilda, and I cannot imagine anybody else playing Flora,” says Khan. “Matilda has incredible intuition; you can’t treat her like a child, and you shouldn’t, because her skills are as an adult. And she has a huge heart, and she knows how to do subtleties, humor and soul. She’s amazing.”

Says DiCamillo of Matilda, “She’s a joy. You cannot take your eyes off her. She’s extraordinary. She’s got a very distinctive tonal quality that manages to encapsulate a certain amount of heartbreak. She’s able just to pull up emotions. It’s an astonishing thing.”

Lawler recalls, “I read the book when I was a lot younger. I remember loving it. It was my teacher’s favorite book. So I remember auditioning for it that day and thinking to myself, if I get this, this is for my teacher!”

Describing her character, Lawler says, “Flora starts closed up like a flower in the beginning and then kind of opens up. The name Flora actually means flower. She’s a courageous, smart, funny girl, who’s also something of a cynic. And I think she’s definitely going through some troubles and she’s unsure about a lot of things. I love playing her because she gets to be as funny and as brave and as strong as the boys.”

One day, while lost in her comic-book universe, Flora witnesses an extraordinary thing. Her neighbor is pulled into the yard by the power of a vacuum cleaner. Not just any vacuum cleaner, but a Ulysses Super-Suction, Multi-Terrain 2000X vacuum cleaner. The household appliance-gone-wrong ingests the squirrel, who is quickly regurgitated, minus some fur but newly gifted with superpowers—a knack for poetry and super-squirrel strength. Flora names him Ulysses.

Khan says, “In every way, Ulysses is exceptional. He’s a little smarter than your average squirrel; he’s a little more excited about things. And as cute and funny as most squirrels are, Ulysses is ten times that.”

“Ulysses can fly. Ulysses can type poetry, and Ulysses can understand what Flora is saying,” explains Lawler. “There’s an incredible connection between them. I would want a pet like that.”

Khan says, “Ulysses is different from all of the other characters in this movie. He sees things humans don’t. He sees the wonder and the glory and everything that is beautiful in this world. And it gives this freshness to the other characters where they can see some things that maybe they were missing in their life.”

“Ulysses has a bunch of powers,” says Lawler. “But you could say that his biggest superpower is bringing Flora and her family closer.”

Khan adds, “And the way Ulysses does that is by teaching them all to see. This is what this story is all about—the courage to see the magic and the beauty that we overlook around us. And Ulysses is the one that brings that to everybody.”

Alyson Hannigan (“How I Met Your Mother,” “American Pie”) plays Flora’s mother, Phyllis, a struggling romance novelist.

Khan describes Phyllis as “a spunky individual with a bohemian flair. She is trying to make her romance novels work while struggling, as many people are, as a single mom in charge of a daughter. Phyllis is grappling to reach a certain level of success and doesn’t feel like she’s achieved anything until she gets there. Until, of course, certain things happen in her life.”

Hannigan says, “Phyllis is artistic and likes to surround herself with vintage things. Her relationship has fallen apart. She’s possibly going through a divorce, co-parenting but in different households, trying to make her career flourish, juggling all these balls and never really being balanced at anything.

“Phyllis and George are navigating the breakup as well as one could hope,” Hannigan explains. “They still like each other, and they probably just grew apart. It is not like something awful happened that broke up the relationship. In my mind, they probably just didn’t realize it was happening. They just didn’t take care of their relationship for so long that it just stopped working. They lost track of their connection, and Ulysses helps remind them of that.”

DiCamillo says of the relationship between mother and daughter, “It’s strained. They’re not at loggerheads, but they do not see each other. Flora is not seeing her mom, and Phyllis has lost sight of everything and what has happened with the separation from George. Then they get to meet each other again because of Ulysses.”

“Phyllis doesn’t quite understand Flora’s obsession with comic books, and Flora definitely does not care about Phyllis’ romance novels, which aren’t doing so well right now,” Khan says. “And, so, they have this witty-to-watch, but a little bit of tension in their relationship.”

“I think Flora and her mom’s relationship is very complicated,” says Lawler. “From the beginning, she and her mom aren’t clicking so much. Flora’s mom is having a little bit of trouble with her work and with Flora’s dad. I think Flora’s mom might want Flora to be a certain way. And then when Ulysses comes in, that changes everything, and they really click. And I think they start to understand each other.”

Of the actress portraying Phyllis, Khan says, “Everybody loves Alyson Hannigan. Phyllis is supposed to have bohemian flair, and Alyson has that and an extra level of vivaciousness and spunk. She makes Phyllis a character that we can relate to, who’s going through a lot of stress, which drives the decisions she makes.”

DiCamillo says, “Alyson is an absolute delight. She’s one of those people who leave you smiling.”

Ben Schwartz (“Parks and Recreation,” “Modern Family”) plays the role of Flora’s world-weary father, George Buckman, who’s estranged from his wife and daughter.

“George is a struggling comic-book artist, an incredibly soulful person,” says Khan. “He sees the beauty in the mundane.”

Explaining his character, Schwartz says, “George writes his own comic books but never really had what it takes to publish them, whether it’s that he was afraid that he would fail, or he didn’t believe in himself. So, that imagination, that world-building, is ingrained in his daughter and great to see, passed down from generation to generation.”

“Flora and her dad are almost like best friends,” says Lawler. “And she adores her dad because he is so different from the typical dad you’d see in a film. They have a very nice relationship, the two of them together. They love each other very much, and they have a lot of fun together.”

Schwartz says, “You see a lot of George in Flora. Phyllis had to be the person who brought everything together and tried to tidy things up to make a life. I don’t think George was great about thinking about that stuff. More responsibility fell on Phyllis’ shoulders. She’s just as creative and has had a bunch of success in places where George only wishes he could succeed. She has to be the stern mom, while George, his whole life, has been the playful dad until now—he begins taking control of stuff as the movie goes on.”

“I think it’s that thing where George and Phyllis did not see each other,” says DiCamillo. “It’s one of the things that make the movie so much about hope, because it reminds all of us that love involves the work of actually seeing somebody. And it does all that implicitly through the squirrel.”

“Ben is very goofy, and he’s fun,” Hannigan says. “It’s almost like he’s more of a kid than Matilda is. He’s always entertaining and playing games on set and stuff, so you can really see the goofiness in Ben. He brings that quality to George.”

Khan says, “Ben is well known for his improv sensibilities; he’s so funny. We milked Ben’s innate ability for comedy as much as we possibly could, and so when we say, ‘Ben, this is your time to be funny,’ he just elevates it to a level that we couldn’t imagine from any other actor.

“And his connection with Matilda is amazing,” she adds. “Their daughter-father relationship is so lovely to watch and so real.”

Asked about Schwartz, Lawler says, “Basically, I feel like we’ve got to know each other so well that we can almost read each other’s minds. It’s awesome.”

Khan explains, “They have this crazy bonding game they played on set, this mental-telepathy game. But it really just speaks to the spark and connection they’ve developed between each other. They look like the most loveable father and daughter I’ve seen. It’s wonderful.”

The rest of the cast includes: acclaimed writer-performer Anna Deavere Smith, who plays Dr. Meescham, a doctor of philosophy who lives in the same apartment building as George; Danny Pudi (“Community,” “The Tiger Hunter”) as Miller, an overly zealous animal control officer; newcomer Benjamin Evan Ainsworth as William, Flora’s neurotic but supportive friend who’s living with her next-door neighbor; Janeane Garofolo (“Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion,” “Reality Bites”) as Phyllis’ book editor, Marissa; and Kate Micucci as Rita, a waitress at a diner who becomes unglued when she encounters Ulysses.

DiCamillo herself makes a brief cameo appearance in the film, as one of the patrons in line at a comic-book shop waiting for her book to be signed.

BELOW-THE-LINE

Khan says, “The guiding vision behind the esthetic of our movie is our interpretation of what a live-action Pixar movie would look like. I don’t think I’d seen something quite like that before.”

To help the director achieve that goal, she and producer Netter assembled an impressive group of talented professionals to lend their support, including director of photography Andrew Dunn (“Lee Daniels’ The Butler,” “Crazy, Stupid, Love.”); production designer Michael Fitzgerald (“Medal of Honor,” “The Tiger Hunter”); editor Lee Haxall (“Always Be My Maybe”); costume designer Mona May (“Enchanted,” “Clueless”); and composer Jake Monaco (“Dumplin’,” “Think Like a Dog”).

BRINGING ULYSSES TO LIFE

“I grew up always liking to do things a little differently,” says Khan. “I try as much as possible in directing this movie to look a little bit outside the norm. Whether it’s the production design, the fun Easter eggs hidden in the background or all the little details in the costumes that inform the characters, we just try to push it as much as we can and make surprising things, and real and grounded all at the same time. Our chief concern is always making sure things are grounded.”

With that in mind, visual effects supervisor Daryl Sawchuk (“Godzilla: King of the Monsters”) and visual effects producer David Feinsilber (“The Nun”) created Ulysses using a photorealistic approach—but tweaked to make him a little bigger and a lot bolder.

After considering each of the 200-plus species of squirrels worldwide, they decided to fashion Ulysses after the Eurasian red squirrel, with a red-orange base color fur with a very prominent white belly and the tail’s underside and very distinct plumes of fur on the ears. They scaled it up to be a little bit bigger so it would be comparable

in size to an Eastern gray squirrel commonly found in North America.

Their biggest challenge was Ulysses' performance and how to represent the progression of his relationship with Flora.

Sawchuk says, "We needed to convey the element of emotion and understanding without breaking that barrier and having it look like a cartoon. We still want to house this in a photoreal world, so it's not unlike the work I did on Ang Lee's 'Life of Pi,' which Gil also produced, where we had digital versions of animal characters. Still, we wanted to keep them photoreal. It's a delicate balance."

They combed through a lot of squirrel references to authentically recreate how a squirrel would connect with a human—any physical expressions it might show.

In collaboration with DP Andrew Dunn, they came up with ideas for getting shots from Ulysses' POV, that of a squirrel about 10 inches tall.

Recalls Sawchuk, "We had many conversations with Andrew about what we called squirrel-cam mode or squirrel-world. So, he kind of had some clever ideas about how we might rig up a series of cameras to do some following shots, tracking shots on the ground."

They decided to do some previz on five key sequences, for the action and the technical planning purposes of how to get this action to take place in a particular environment, which proved to be very helpful when they actually went to shoot those sequences.

They also needed to make sure Matilda was comfortable holding her co-star. In order to plan for some of the puppeteering they needed to do, they brought in live domesticated rats, a similar size in scale to Ulysses, and filmed Matilda interacting with them as they moved around and crawled up her arms, into her lap, and so on. What her hands would do naturally, and get her to think about how these little creatures move and feel when she is actually holding an inanimate squirrel or "stuffie" on set.

Working with the rats beforehand gave her an idea of how she would be picking up and holding the squirrel. They began with her gently picking up the rats for different moments in the movie. Once they started to have a bit of a relationship together, she would put her hand down, and the rat would jump up into her hand. This was a way to subtly tie in some cues of how that bonding and relationship grow throughout the film.

ABOUT THE CAST

MATILDA LAWLER (Flora) is a series regular on "Station Eleven," a limited series for HBO Max based on Emily St. John Mandel's novel. Matilda portrays young Kirsten, the story's protagonist. Matilda originated the role of Honor Carney on Broadway in "The Ferryman," written by Jez Butterworth and directed by Sam Mendes, which won the 2019 Tony Award® for best play. Matilda's performance received rave reviews, and TheaterMania included her in its list of the 11 Best Broadway Debuts of 2018. Matilda made her professional stage debut in Erin Mallon's play "The Net Will Appear" starring opposite Richard Masur.

ALYSON HANNIGAN (Phyllis) was born in Washington, D.C., and began appearing in commercials at the age of 4 before moving to Hollywood at age 11. She soon landed her first major film role in "My Stepmother Is an Alien,"

alongside Seth Green. She is best known for her roles in the Emmy® Award–winning series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and "How I Met Your Mother," with additional acting credits including the "American Pie" film franchise, "Angel," "Veronica Mars," "Abducted: The Mary Stauffer Story" and the 2019 Disney Channel Original Movie "Kim Possible."

Hannigan can most recently be seen as the host of Food Network's "Outrageous Pumpkins," which premiered on September 20, 2020, as well as Food Network's "Girl Scout Cookie Championship," which premiered on February 3, 2020. Alyson also serves as host of The CW's "Penn & Teller: Fool Us," which premiered on June 22, 2020. She also voices the role of Claire Clancy, mom to 6-year-old Nancy, in Disney Junior's animated series "Fancy Nancy," about a high-spirited young girl whose imagination and enthusiasm for all that is exquisite transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband, "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" co-star Alexis Denisof, and their two daughters.

BEN SCHWARTZ (George Buckman) is an Emmy® Award–winning writer, actor and comedian.

Schwartz can be seen alongside Thomas Middleditch in their Netflix specials, "Middleditch & Schwartz." The specials are based on the completely improvised two-person show they took on tour through early 2020. During this tour, the two played Carnegie Hall, The Chicago Theatre and sold-out theaters all across the country.

Schwartz can be seen starring in Netflix's "Space Force," created by Greg Daniels and Steve Carell. Schwartz stars alongside Carell and John Malkovich in the original comedy that has just been picked up for a second season. In 2021, he can be seen in Phil Lord and Chris Miller's murder-mystery comedy "The Afterparty" on Apple TV+, alongside Tiffany Haddish and Dave Franco. Schwartz also lends his voice to the Paramount animated film "Rumble," starring Will Arnett, Terry Crews and Tony Danza, set to release in 2021.

Most recently, Schwartz voiced the title character in Jeff Fowler's highly successful live-action/animation hybrid film "Sonic the Hedgehog," based on the classic Sega video game. Paramount released the film on February 14, 2020, and it has since become the highest domestic grossing video game adaptation of all time, with $146 million and a worldwide gross of $306.7 million.

It was recently announced that Schwartz and Sam Rockwell have teamed up for an upcoming film for Searchlight Pictures. The division picked up the project as a pitch from Schwartz, and he is set to pen the script. Both Schwartz and Rockwell will star in and executive produce the untitled feature.

Schwartz starred in and executive produced the independent film "Standing Up, Falling Down," alongside Billy Crystal. The comedy, which Deadline's Pete Hammond called "a career highpoint" for Schwartz, follows him as Scott, a standup comedian whose career has crashed and burned after four years of chasing his dreams in Los Angeles. Left with little money, he has no choice but to return to his parents' house in Long Island. His additional feature-film credits include the Warner Bros. film "This Is Where I Leave You," opposite Jason Bateman and Tina Fey; "Outside In," opposite Edie Falco and Jay Duplass; DreamWorks Animation's "Turbo"; "Runner Runner," with Justin Timberlake and Ben Affleck; "The Walk," opposite Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Ben Kingsley; and "Peep World," with Rainn Wilson, Michael C. Hall and Sarah Silverman.

On the TV side, Schwartz starred opposite Don Cheadle and Kristen Bell in Showtime's "House of Lies" and notably guest starred as Jean-Ralphio on NBC's "Parks and Recreation," opposite Amy Poehler and Nick Offerman. He

also played series regular Bill Hoyt on J.J. Abrams' one-hour NBC spy drama "Undercovers." In the animated world, Schwartz voices Dewey in Disney Channel's "DuckTales" reboot, returning for Season 3; Leonardo in "Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"; and voiced the lead role of Randy Cunningham on Disney XD's "Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja."

As a writer, Schwartz was nominated for three Emmy® Awards and won the 2009 Emmy for outstanding original music and lyrics for co-authoring Hugh Jackman's opening number for the 81st Academy Awards® broadcast. He has written two features for Imagine Entertainment and Universal; one feature for Gary Sanchez, Point Gray and Good Universe; and was hired by Paramount to remake the 1991 classic comedy "Soapdish" with producers Rob Reiner and Alan Greisman. In 2011, the script appeared on Los Angeles' illustrious Black List. He has co-authored four humor books, three through HarperCollins: "Grandma's Dead: Breaking Bad News with Baby Animals," "Why Is Daddy in a Dress?: Asking Awkward Questions with Baby Animals" and "Maybe Your Leg Will Grow Back!: Looking on the Bright Side with Baby Animals." And one through Hachette Books, "Things You Should Already Know About Dating, You F*cking Idiot," which was optioned by CBS to be made into a television show.

For more info, visit his website http://RejectedJokes.com/.

ANNA DEAVERE SMITH (Dr. Meescham) is an actress, playwright, teacher and author. She is credited with having created a new form of theater. Smith's work combines the journalistic technique of interviewing her subjects with the art of interpreting their words through performance.

Smith has created over 15 one-person shows based on hundreds of interviews. Her most recent play, "Notes from the Field," looks at the vulnerability of youth, inequality, the criminal justice system, and contemporary activism. In 2018, HBO premiered the film version of "Notes from the Field."

Smith has appeared on such television series as "For the People," "Black-ish," "Nurse Jackie" and "The West Wing." Additional film work includes "The American President," "Philadelphia," "Rent" and "Rachel Getting Married."

President Obama awarded Smith the National Humanities Medal in 2013. Additional honors include the prestigious MacArthur Award, The Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for achievement in the arts, the George Polk Career Award in Journalism, the Dean's Medal from the Stanford University School of Medicine, two Tony Award® nominations and several honorary degrees. She was runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize in drama. In 2019, she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is a university professor at Tisch School of the Arts and the founding director of the NYU Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue.

DANNY PUDI (Miller) is an actor and writer with a wide range of experience in film, on television and on stage. He currently stars in AppleTV+'s "Mythic Quest: Raven's Banquet," opposite Rob McElhenney. Other series-regular starring roles include DC Comics' "Powerless" for Warner Bros./NBC, the Jax Media independent pilot "Berlin," as well as notable roles on TBS' "The Guest Book," TruTV's "Bobcat Goldthwait's Misfits & Monsters" and FX's "Better Things." Danny's breakout role was on the critically acclaimed series "Community" on NBC and Yahoo, which earned him a nomination for best supporting actor in a comedy series at the Critics Choice Awards.

In film, Pudi has had numerous leading roles, including in "The Tiger Hunter," opposite Karen David and John Heder; Warner Bros.' "Good Girls Get High"; and 2019's "Babysplitters." Pudi's voice work includes lead roles in Sony Pictures Animation's "Smurfs: The Lost Village" (Brainy Smurf) and Disney's "DuckTales" (Huey).

Pudi made his directorial debut with the ESPN “30 for 30” documentary short “Untucked,” which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

On stage, Danny’s credits include “SHABASH!,” an evening of South Asian Theatre at Lincoln Center (2018), the Off-Broadway musical “Found” (Atlantic Theater), “Huck & Holden” (L.A.’s Black Dahlia Theatre) and NBC’s “Diversity Showcase” (Falcon Theatre). Originally from Chicago, Pudi studied comedy at The Second City Conservatory, and in his spare time he enjoys running, drinking too much coffee and spending time with family.

BENJAMIN EVAN AINSWORTH (William) is a British child actor.

Currently aged 12, he started acting professionally four years ago and has been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to play some very diverse and uniquely challenging roles.

In 2019, he spent nine months in Vancouver, shooting “The Haunting of Bly Manor” for Netflix under Mike Flanagan. His performance as the orphaned, deeply troubled and volatile Miles Wingrave has earned him critical acclaim; recently described as “exceptional” and one of the “most delicate and captivating performances in a horror story ever captured.”

Prior to this, he shot a short film/pilot called “The Recycling Man,” portraying an AI robot called Jacob.

On stage, he has played William Beech in “Goodnight Mister Tom,” Kurt in “The Sound of Music” and Benji in the hit musical “Priscilla, Queen of the Desert.”

He has also starred in TV commercials in Italy and Malta and played a small role in ITV’s “Emmerdale” in the UK back in 2018.

In his spare time, Benjamin enjoys playing rugby and hockey and is a huge Liverpool FC supporter. He also loves singing, songwriting, music producing and playing the drums.

Benjamin is in high demand, and his schedule for the rest of 2020 and 2021 is already filling up with some extremely exciting and high-profile projects in the works.

He lives in Yorkshire with his parents, sister and two dogs: Hugo and Jasper.

Iconic comedian and actress **JANEANE GAROFALO (Marissa)** has been working nonstop for over three decades. She’s currently on TV Land’s “Younger” and was recently seen in ABC’s “Stumptown,” Netflix’s “Wet Hot American Summer: Ten Years Later” and Comedy Central’s “Broad City.”

Garofalo was a cast member of the Emmy® Award–winning “Ben Stiller Show” and played the role of Paula, the acerbic talent booker, on “The Larry Sanders Show,” for which she received an Emmy nomination. During the fall of ’94 she joined the cast of “Saturday Night Live.” Some of Janeane’s other television work includes two specials for HBO, FOX’s “24,” “Mad About You,” and the final season of NBC’s “The West Wing,” where she played Democratic campaign strategist Louise Thornton.

Garofalo has had many memorable and critically acclaimed roles in films such as “The Truth About Cats & Dogs,” “Wet Hot American Summer,” “Ratatouille,” “Steal This Movie,” “Reality Bites,” “Romy and Michele’s High School

Reunion," "Mystery Men," "The Ten" and "The Cable Guy." She also co-authored the best-seller "Feel This Book" with Ben Stiller.

In addition to acting in film and television, Janeane is an outspoken activist, spoken-word performer and standup comedy entertainer known and respected around the world. She was instrumental in the successful launching of the first liberal radio network, Air America Radio, where she hosted her own talk show, "The Majority Report." A lightning rod for controversy, Janeane's well informed opinions and unflinching honesty have inspired laughs, as well as striking a chord with the left, right and everyone in between.

Actress, writer, musician and singer **KATE MICUCCI (Rita)** is best known as one half of the musical comedy duo Garfunkel and Oates with Riki Lindhome. Kate and Riki developed their act into the "Garfunkel and Oates" series on IFC. Micucci can be seen in such films as "The Last Laugh," "The Little Hours," "Don't Think Twice" and "Jay and Silent Bob: Reboot." On television, she has appeared in numerous projects, from "Another Period" to "Easy" to "The Big Bang Theory," and was most recently seen starring opposite Allison Janney on "Mom."

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

LENA KHAN (Director) wrote, directed, and produced her first feature film, "The Tiger Hunter," which starred Danny Pudi and Jon Heder, following a Muslim Indian immigrant on his journey to discover where he fits in 1970s America. The film, currently streaming on Netflix, was released theatrically in 2018 in over 60 cities nationwide and garnered critical acclaim from The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and more.

With a background from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and experience at prominent production companies such as Participant Media, Khan spent years directing short films, commercials and music videos before embarking on her first feature.

Her short films and videos have received over 30 million hits on YouTube, have won film festivals, have been broadcast across the world and have been seen everywhere from universities to international embassies. Lena and her work have been profiled in Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Teen Vogue, USA Today and The New York Times. She was also listed as one of the 25 Screenwriters to watch in MovieMaker magazine.

Khan recently sold two television shows, is directing episodic television including Netflix's "Never Have I Ever," and is overseeing development by a prestigious and delightfully kooky writer for a screenplay she will direct.

BRAD COPELAND (Screenwriter) has written extensively for television and movies, including the acclaimed series "Arrested Development"—for which he earned three Emmy® nominations—"My Name Is Earl" and "Eastbound & Down." Copeland's first motion picture screenplay, the biker comedy "Wild Hogs," became one of the highest-grossing films of 2007. In addition, he wrote and directed the 2013 cult favorite "Coffee Town" and wrote the screenplay for "Ferdinand," which was nominated for an Academy Award®, as well as the 2019 animated feature "Spies in Disguise," which starred Will Smith and Tom Holland. Copeland was born and raised in Orlando, Fla., and currently lives in Sherman Oaks, Calif., with his wife and two sons.

KATE DICAMILLO (Based on The Novel By) is the author of many books for young readers. Her books have been awarded the Newbery Medal ("Flora & Ulysses" in 2014 and "The Tale of Despereaux" in 2004), the Newbery

Honor ("Because of Winn-Dixie," 2001), the Boston Globe–Horn Book Award ("The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane," 2006) and the Theodor Geisel Medal and honor ("Bink and Gollie," co-author Alison McGhee, 2011; "Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride," 2007). She is a National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Emerita, appointed by the Library of Congress.

A native of Florida, Kate now lives in Minneapolis, Minn.

Recognized for his work on a number of acclaimed films, **GIL NETTER (Producer)** is a two-time Academy Award®–nominated producer, best known for bringing to the screen "Life of Pi." Directed by Ang Lee from the screenplay based on Yann Martel's award-winning novel, the film emerged as a critical and commercial success, earning more than $600 million worldwide.

"Life of Pi" was nominated for 11 Academy Awards®, including best picture, and won four Oscars®, including best director. Among its many accolades, the film was honored by the American Film Institute as best film of the year, nominated for three Golden Globe® Awards—including best picture and best director—and won the Golden Globe® Award for best original score.

More recently, Netter produced "Just Mercy," a powerful and thought-provoking true story, which follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson and his history-making battle for justice. Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, marking the writer/director's third collaboration with Netter, the film is based on the celebrated memoir by Bryan Stevenson and stars Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Brie Larson, O'Shea Jackson Jr., Rob Morgan, Rafe Spall and Tim Blake Nelson. "Just Mercy" premiered to critical acclaim at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival. At the 2020 NAACP Image Awards, "Just Mercy" won outstanding motion picture, the award for outstanding ensemble cast in a motion picture, and acting honors for stars Jordan and Foxx.

Earlier, Netter produced the 2009 box-office phenomenon "The Blind Side," which was nominated for an Academy Award® for best picture and grossed over $300 million globally on a production budget of only $29 million. The film's star, Sandra Bullock, went on to win an Academy Award for best actress, as well as a Golden Globe® Award for best actress in a motion picture – drama and a Screen Actors Guild Award® for outstanding performance by a female actor in a leading role.

Netter produced 2017's "The Shack," one of the highest-grossing faith-based movies ever made, starring Sam Worthington and Octavia Spencer, based on the New York Times best-selling novel. Also, in 2017, Netter produced "The Glass Castle," directed by Destin Daniel Cretton and starring Brie Larson with Naomi Watts, Woody Harrelson, Max Greenfield and Sarah Snook in supporting roles. Earlier, Netter produced "The Sea of Trees," the 2015 drama-mystery directed by Gus Van Sant, starring Matthew McConaughey, Ken Watanabe and Naomi Watts.

Netter also produced "Water for Elephants," starring Robert Pattinson, Reese Witherspoon and Christoph Waltz; "Marley & Me," starring Jennifer Aniston and Luke Wilson; "Phone Booth," starring Colin Farrell and directed by Joel Schumacher; "Flicka," starring Alison Lohman, Maria Bello and Tim McGraw; "Fever Pitch," starring Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon; and "A Walk in the Clouds," starring Keanu Reeves, directed by Alfonso Arau.

Previously, Netter served as president of Zucker Brothers Productions, where he oversaw the production of "Ghost," written by Bruce Joel Rubin and directed by Jerry Zucker, starring Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore, Tony Goldwyn and Whoopi Goldberg. Beloved by audiences and critics, "Ghost" was a massive commercial success, released in the summer of 1990, grossing over $505 million at the box office on a $22 million production budget.

The film was nominated for five Academy Awards®—including best picture, best score and best film editing—and won Oscars® for best supporting actress for Goldberg and best original screenplay. Swayze and Moore both were honored by the HFPA with Golden Globe® Award nominations for their performances, while Goldberg won BAFTA, Golden Globe® and Saturn awards in addition to the Oscar.

Netter also served as executive producer of the Oscar®-, Golden Globe®–, and BAFTA-nominated "My Best Friend's Wedding," starring Julia Roberts. Additionally, he executive produced "First Knight," "My Life," "Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult" and "The Naked Gun 2½: The Smell of Fear."

Netter's upcoming slate includes "Atlantis," a musical feature inspired by Pharrell Williams' childhood. Additional projects include "The Graveyard Book," directed by Ron Howard; "Catherine the Great," the number one screenplay on 2014's prestigious Black List, written by Kristina Lauren Anderson; "Mixtape," a Netflix original film; for Disney, Chris Weitz's adaptation of "The Merlin Saga," based on the book series written by T.A. Barron; and the feature film adaptation of Paulo Coelho's 1988 fantasy novel "The Alchemist" for Kevin Frakes at Sony/Tri-Star.

KATTERLI FRAUENFELDER (Executive Producer/1st Assistant Director) most recently served as producer and 1st assistant director on Tim Burton's "Dumbo," having collaborated with Burton previously on eight films: "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children," "Big Eyes," "Dark Shadows," "Alice in Wonderland," "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Big Fish" and "Planet of the Apes."

Frauenfelder's other producing credits include Matt and Ross Duffer's "Hidden," for which she served as executive producer, and Tom Hanks' "Larry Crowne" and Peyton Reed's "Yes Man" as co-producer.

Her extensive film credits include working with Bruce Beresford on "Silent Fall," "Rich in Love" and the award-winning "Driving Miss Daisy"; Frank Marshall on "Congo" and "Alive"; Tom Hanks' "That Thing You Do!"; Scott Hicks on "Snow Falling on Cedars"; and Carl Franklin's "Devil in a Blue Dress," to name a few.

JAMES POWERS (Executive Producer) has executive produced and/or production managed movies all over the world. He is best known as the production manager of the "Maze Runner" trilogy—"The Maze Runner," "Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials" and "Maze Runner: The Death Cure"—the hit YA dystopian sci-fi thriller franchise directed by Wes Ball and starring Dylan O'Brien, Ki Hong Lee, Kaya Scodelario and Thomas Brodie-Sangster. Powers was executive producer on director Stephen Chbosky's drama-romance "The Perks of Being a Wildflower," starring Emma Watson and Logan Lerman, and unit production manager on director Doug Liman's action-adventure "Jumper," starring Hayden Christensen. Other feature credits include "Mean Girls," "The Love Guru," "Get Rich or Die Tryin,'" "Ice Princess," "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," "Serendipity" and "Finding Forrester." For television, Powers recently served as executive producer on "Stargirl" for Disney+ and is currently the line producer on the epic final season of "Better Call Saul."

ANDREW DUNN, BSC (Director of Photography) is a British cinematographer who has been honored with multiple BAFTA Awards, with a body of work that includes more than 52 feature films and 24 dramas for television.

Dunn has collaborated with some of the industry's most notable directors, such as Robert Altman on "Gosford Park" and "The Company"; Nicholas Hytner on "The Madness of King George," "The Crucible," "History Boys" and "The Lady in the Van"; Lee Daniels on "Precious," "Lee Daniels' The Butler," "Empire" and "The United States

vs. Billie Holiday"; Stephen Chbosky on "The Perks of Being a Wallflower"; Glenn Ficarra & John Requa on "Crazy, Stupid, Love."; and Andy Tennant on "The Secret: Dare to Dream," "Ever After," "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Hitch."

Dunn's career started at the BBC, where he honed his craft. But his passion for the art form began as a young boy observing his father, who worked in lighting on set at MGM Film Studios in London. After he worked on a series of award-winning films for the BBC, the Hollywood film industry took notice, and he began his freelance career with projects including "L.A. Story" and "The Bodyguard." Throughout his career, he has amassed an eclectic range of credits shooting on film, and more recently digital technology, also serving as camera operator whenever possible.

MICHAEL FITZGERALD (Production Designer) collaborated with director Lena Khan on her first feature film, "The Tiger Hunter," filmed in Los Angeles and Mumbai, sharing a vision of creating a heightened reality that would best serve the comedic narrative. In addition to both being UCLA alumni—he from the UCLA Theater Department, she from the UCLA School of Film and Television—Fitzgerald and Khan forged a close creative partnership and friendship.

Fitzgerald's career spans over 50 film, television and theater productions, including: "Thirtysomething(else)," pilot, directed by Ed Zwick; "The Last Five Years," directed by Richard LaGravanese; "All We Had," directed by Katie Holmes; "Medal of Honor," directed by James Moll; "A Happening of Monumental Proportions," directed by Judy Greer; "6 Balloons," directed by Marja-Lewis Ryan; "Weather Girl," directed by Blayne Weaver; the MTV series "Faking It"; "GBF," directed by Darren Stein; and "Around the Block," directed by Sarah Spillane.

JAMIE GROSS (Film Editor) got her start as an assistant editor on the Oscar®-nominated documentary "Murderball." She has since worked with director David Wain on his feature films "The Ten," "Role Models," "Wanderlust" and "They Came Together," and his Netflix biopic "A Futile and Stupid Gesture," which premiered at Sundance in 2018.

Gross edited "MacGruber," directed by Jorma Taccone and produced by John Goldwyn and Lorne Michaels. Her most recent feature-editing credits include the comedy hit "Game Night," which was her second feature for John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein and New Line Cinema. She also cut the Lonely Island/Apatow comedy "Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping," which reunited her with Taccone. Additionally, Gross was the editor for Olivia Wilde's directorial debut. "Booksmart," which won numerous critics' awards, including the Spirit Award for best first feature. This is Jamie's first film for Disney and for director Lena Khan.

LEE HAXALL, ACE (Film Editor) is an Emmy®-winning editor who has edited popular and acclaimed movies like "Crazy, Stupid, Love.," "Always Be My Maybe" and "Meet the Fockers," among many others. On the TV side, Haxall has edited shows as diverse as "The Shield" and "Arrested Development," the latter of which earned Lee an Emmy® for editing the pilot.

MONA MAY (Costume Designer) exploded onto the scene with the release of "Clueless," a film that raised the status of fashion in film. The New York Times, Vogue and Women's Wear Daily proclaimed "Clueless" the fashion movie of the year and introduced a bold new costume designer to the world.

Capturing the rich-girl prep style with plaid skirts, knee-high socks, platform Mary Janes and feather-trim coats, Cher's (Alicia Silverstone) more than 60 costume changes were fresh, new and unusual, and created a vibrant style to emulate for a generation of girls learning how to dress.

May's trademark joie de vivre is clearly evident in her work, and it injects bold, sexy confidence into her designs. She is a master at designing costumes that flatter her actors' body types, while simultaneously hitting pitch-perfect visual notes for the character they are portraying. May's deep understanding of both design and anatomy combine to render the actor and the character inseparable, including many roles played by such Hollywood luminaries as Nicole Kidman, Emma Stone, Jennifer Aniston, Eva Mendez, Nicolas Cage, Eddie Murphy, Demi Moore, Anna Farris, Will Ferrell and many more.

May's dedication to the art of creating characters with fabric, textures and color goes far beyond simply dressing the actors. It is an art that spans genres, time periods and even media—ranging from live-action to CGI to classic cell animation—and creating a costume that moves believably from the real world to a virtual world is an intricate process.

For "Stuart Little 2," designing an entire wardrobe for a four-inch digital mouse meant working closely with the visual effects team at Sony Imageworks to balance May's creative vision with that of director Rob Minkoff. The process started with a sketch, before going to a virtual tailor, followed by a texture mapper and finally the lighting designer. Every detail, from the textures and patterns on the fabrics to the scale and placement of trims and buttons, was executed to May's exact specifications.

There are times, however, when a director must rely on a designer's ingenuity for a character's technical effects. While filming "The Haunted Mansion," Mona created a "glow" that could be photographed in both live-action and CG. She experimented with a paint process using Scotchlite powder applied to fabric, allowing the ghost costumes to glow as if the actors were lit from within, and saving the production from using expensive CG effects. The film also allowed her to demonstrate her exquisite tailoring and eye for detail, evidenced by the extraordinary costumes for stars Eddie Murphy, Terence Stamp and Wallace Shawn.

In the film "Enchanted," Susan Sarandon's evil Queen Narissa required a technically challenging costume requiring a seamless transition from 2D animation (cartoon character) to live action (human actor) to a computer-generated rendering that morphed into a CGI dragon while retaining remnants of the original costume. For the costume, May designed a reptilian leather corset and skirt with a cape fashioned to look like wings, and during Narissa's dragon metamorphosis, the skirt's layers wrapped around like a tail and the crown transformed into horns.

Aside from movie work, May is always inspired to share her passion, originality and technical experience with the future designers at Otis College of Art and Design, FIDM and ArtCenter College of Design, where she is a frequent lecturer.

Born in India to European parents, May was raised in Warsaw, and later Berlin. She studied fashion in Europe, New York and Los Angeles, experiencing a global education that gave her the unique point of view she brings to her work.

Composer **JAKE MONACO**'s **(Original Score)** musical fingerprints can be found on some of the biggest film scores of the past decade. His most recent film scores include the groundbreaking Pixar Sparkshort "Out" on Disney+; Netflix's "Dumplin'," starring Jennifer Aniston, for director Anne Fletcher; Fox's action comedy "Keeping Up

With the Joneses," starring Isla Fisher, Jon Hamm, Zach Galifianakis and Gal Gadot; Fox Searchlight's comedy "Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie," starring Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley; "Kindergarten Cop 2," starring Dolph Lundgren; "Think Like a Dog," starring Megan Fox and Josh Duhamel; and the Paramount comedy "Like a Boss," starring Tiffany Haddish and Rose Byrne (co-scored with Christophe Beck).

Monaco also recently finished "Forky Asks a Question" and "Lamp Life" for Disney+, based on characters from "Toy Story 4." His other work includes the classroom comedy "Struck by Lightning"; the romantic drama "Kilimanjaro"; the murder mystery "Out to Kill"; the romantic comedy "Playing It Cool," starring Chris Evans and Michelle Monaghan; President Obama's re-election film "The Road We've Traveled," narrated by Tom Hanks; Illumination's "Minions" shorts "Yellow is the New Black" and "Santa's Little Helpers" (which played in front of "The Grinch"); and the Oscar®-winning animated Pixar short "Piper," the score for which Jake arranged, orchestrated and produced. Monaco's work also includes the Warner Bros. animated comedy "Scooby-Doo! and the Gourmet Ghost," Warner Bros.' family feature "A Cinderella Story: Christmas Wish" and the dramatic feature "Walkaway Joe," co-scored with Christophe Beck. Upcoming for Monaco is the Amazon Prime Original Series "Do, Re & Mi," featuring the voice talents of Kristen Bell and Jackie Tohn.

His music can also be heard in many family-favorite animated series, enriching the worlds of Amazon's "The Stinky & Dirty Show"; Netflix and DreamWorks Animation Television's "Dinotrux"; "Be Cool, Scooby-Doo!" for Warner Bros. Animation; and the 2019 Facebook Watch original adult-animated series "Human Discoveries" with the voices of Anna Kendrick, Zac Efron and Lisa Kudrow. Monaco also scored the TV series "All Night" for Hulu. As a producer and composer of additional music for Christophe Beck, Monaco has contributed to the animated magic of "Frozen," the record-breaking laughs of "The Hangover" trilogy, the furry hijinks of "The Muppets" and the real-life drama of "Waiting for Superman," among many others.

Monaco grew up in New Jersey and New Hampshire and revealed his heart's bearing toward music as early as age 2, when his parents took him to the circus and he walked right past the clowns and animals to the band pit. He studied composition and music technology at the University of Richmond in Virginia and started the band NE3, opening for bands like Maroon 5—before enrolling at the film scoring program at USC. There he began his fruitful and ongoing collaboration with Beck.

"I've always loved storytelling through music, which is why songwriting came so naturally," says Monaco. "I found it difficult to conjure up inspiration for a piece just for the sake of writing music. So when I finally made the connection between music and film, it just clicked, and I fell in love."

ZACHARY DAWES (Executive Music Producer) is a Los Angeles–born composer and producer. In 2019 he was the music supervisor and co-composer of the film score for "The Peanut Butter Falcon," starring Shia LaBeouf and Dakota Johnson. He also scored "Big Time Adolescence," starring Pete Davidson, which debuted in 2019 at the Sundance Film Festival.

Dawes began his career working for T Bone Burnett in 2008, playing on sessions, and assisting on film and television projects such as "True Detective," "Nashville," "Inside Llewyn Davis" and "The Hunger Games." His recent collaboration with Burnett on "True Detective" Season 3 for HBO resulted in an Emmy® nomination for T Bone.

In 2009 Dawes and Queens of the Stone Age bassist Michael Shuman founded the band Mini Mansions. Frequently collaborating with Alex Turner, English singer-songwriter, musician and record producer, Dawes recorded and toured with The Last Shadow Puppets and contributed to the most recent Arctic Monkeys record, "Tranquility

Base Hotel & Casino." He also produced and co-wrote with Lana Del Rey for her latest critically acclaimed album, "Norman F*****g Rockwell!"

Dawes grew up in Encino, Calif., and graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2007 with a degree in film and digital media.

DARYL SAWCHUK's **(VFX Supervisor)** fine art and animation background has helped him over the last 20-plus years of bringing characters to life in both fully animated and VFX form. He's supervised sequences in memorable films such as "Man of Steel," the Academy Award®–winning "Life of Pi," "Edge of Tomorrow," "Justice League," "Doctor Strange," the BAFTA Award–winning "Black Panther" (as animation supervisor) and "Godzilla: King of the Monsters." Most recently, he served as VFX supervisor on "Jumanji: The Next Level."

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